CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (currently amended). A method of detecting an object or a person in the interior of a motor vehicle, which comprises:

providing an image recording unit for detecting an object or a person in the interior of the motor vehicle and an analytical unit for image data transmitted from the image recording unit;

operating at least one of the image recording unit and the analytical unit [.] :

in a first operating mode <u>implementing a first image processing algorithm</u> when said analytical unit determines that an acceleration threshold value is not exceeded; and

in a second operating mode <u>implementing a second image processing</u> <u>algorithm that is faster than the first image processing algorithm</u> when said analytical unit determines that the acceleration threshold value is exceeded, the second operating mode taking over on a basis of

positional data of a last measurement obtained in the first operating

mode.

Claim 18 (previously presented). The method according to claim 17, which

comprises polling a value of a motor vehicle acceleration with the analytical unit

with a cycle time of approximately 2 ms.

Claim 19 (previously presented). The method according to claim 17, which

comprises polling a value of a motor vehicle acceleration with the analytical unit

with a cycle time of approximately 1 ms.

Claim 20 (previously presented). The method according to claim 17, which

comprises setting the acceleration threshold value to approximately 2 m/s².

Claim 21 (previously presented). The method according to claim 17, which

comprises estimating a next position of the object or the person in the second

operating mode on a basis of the measured acceleration values by way of a

comparison model.

Claim 22 (previously presented). The method according to claim 17, which

comprises, when the threshold value is no longer exceeded, interrupting a

currently running second operating mode and restarting the first operating

mode.

3 of 10

Appl. No. 10/527,250

Amdt. Dated January 30, 2008

Reply to Office Action of January 7, 2008

Claim 23 (previously presented). The method according to claim 17, which

comprises, upon exceeding the threshold value, interrupting a currently running

first operating mode and starting the second operating mode.

Claim 24 (currently amended). A device for detecting an object or a person in

an interior of a motor vehicle, comprising:

an image recording unit disposed to detect an object or a person in the interior

of the motor vehicle;

an analytical unit configured to receive data from said image recording unit;

and

the device being configured to be selectively operated:

in a first operating mode implementing a first image processing algorithm

while a defined acceleration threshold value is determined not to be

exceeded by said analytical unit; and

in a second operating mode implementing a second image processing

algorithm that is faster than the first image processing algorithm while

the acceleration threshold value is determined to be exceeded by the

analytical unit.

4 of 10

Claim 25 (previously presented). The device according to claim 24, wherein said analytical unit is configured to activate the second operating mode as soon as a value of a motor vehicle acceleration exceeds the acceleration threshold value.

Claim 26 (previously presented). The device according to claim 24, wherein said analytical unit is configured to activate the first operating mode as soon as a value of a motor vehicle acceleration drops below the acceleration threshold value.

Claim 27 (previously presented). The device according to claim 24, wherein said analytical unit is configured to reference values for a motor vehicle acceleration from an external airbag control unit.

Claim 28 (previously presented). The device according to claim 24, which further comprises an acceleration sensor for determining an acceleration of the motor vehicle.

Claim 29 (previously presented). The device according to claim 28, wherein said acceleration sensor forms an integral part of said analytical unit or of said image recording unit.

Claim 30 (previously presented). The device according to claim 28, wherein said acceleration sensor is a sensor sensitive for relatively low accelerations.

Claim 31 (previously presented). The device according to claim 24, wherein

said image recording unit has a more restricted sampling range in the second

operating mode than a sampling range in the first operating mode.

Claim 32 (previously presented). The device according to claim 24, wherein

said analytical unit has a shorter analysis cycle in the second operating mode

than an analysis cycle in the first operating mode.

Claim 33 (previously presented). The device according to claim 24, wherein

said image recording unit is a camera.

Claim 34 (previously presented). The device according to claim 24, wherein

said image recording unit is a stereoscopic 3D camera.

6 of 10